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INTENSIFY PARTY TRAINING IN CLUJ REGION OF RUMANIA

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International conditions since 1949 have created a need for the intensification of the United States against North Korea and Chinese People's Republic, the transformation of Yugoslavia into an American colony and a potential ignition point of war on the very border of the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic), and the sharper international class struggle have imposed new burdens on the party.

Domestically, the chief problems which face the party and which, therefore, are the chief objectives of party propaganda, are the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan, the achievement of the electrification plan, and the socialization of agriculture. To achieve its aims, party propaganda must be able to enrich the knowledge of party members in regard to the planning and organization of production, the problem of industrialization, the class alliance with the peasants, and the role of collectives. Propaganda must be closely bound to the practical phases of party organizational work and to the concrete measures necessary for the socialization of the RPR.

The groundwork for propaganda can best be laid by effective party education. Through education, all members can be mobilized for the attainment of objectives in all fields of activity. An analysis of the activities of party organizations in the Cluj region shows that there has been an erroneous tendency to place too little emphasis on the value of party education. These organizations, during the academic years 1949 - 1950 and 1950 - 1951, failed to devote sufficient attention to an analysis of problems involved. They did not devote enough attention to education within enterprises, institutions, and villages. They did not establish permanent study groups and party courses for members within the party and for others outside the party. In addition, they took no measures to improve attendance at party educational meetings.

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However, when the CC (Central Committee) of the PMR (Rumanian Workers' Party) called for an improvement of such conditions throughout the country, the Cluj regional committee complied, although somewhat late. It instituted a program of criticism and self-criticism to determine its errors. Then it concentrated on all forms of party instruction, from university classes in Marxism-Leninism to current political discussion circles. At the same time, the committee supervised party organizations in the area to see that they too assured the proper functioning of teaching at all levels.

First of all, to determine the true condition of the university evening courses in Marxism-Leninism, the regional party committee held a meeting to discuss the activities of these classes. This meeting resulted in the better operation of the evening classes. The level of seminars was raised. The problem of attendance was studied closely. It was found that students who attend evening classes did not know that they were also obligated to attend seminars connected with these classes. Thus, for example, 192 students attended a regular class on 9 October 1950, but only 115 participated in the seminar held on 14 October. Members of the regional bureau, section chiefs, and regional instructors were also absent. Consequently, the regional party bureau took measures to prevent such absence. It eliminated five men from the university evening course, and warned nine others who had not attended regularly.

Another problem was the poor preparation of their seminar subjects by the lecturers. For example, at the seminars held by the rayon administration of Turda, activists headed by Baic (fnu), first secretary of the rayon bureau, and Chereji (fnu), secretary of the town committee of Turda, made inadequate preparations for their lectures, and therefore could not answer questions asked by participants. In contrast, Varga (fnu) and Budai (fnu) were well prepared.

In addition to the university evening courses, there are two intermediate party schools in Cluj. Each presents a 6 months course, one in the Rumanian language, the other in Hungarian. The activity of these schools was studied and improved. Lecturers were required to prepare in advance. The accent was shifted to the application of political theory to practical current problems. Thus, for example, a lecture entitled "The management of factories and socialist industries, and the breakdown of the state plan by factory" was presented by the director of the Janos Herbak Factory. He illustrated the theoretical side of the lecture with concrete examples from the activity of the factory, describing both favorable and unfavorable episodes. The qualitative level of lectures in intermediate schools would have risen higher if the party bureau had held more than the one meeting.

Seminars at these two schools are prepared in advance. Lecturers study bibliographic material and do preparatory reading on the subject to be discussed. Directors of the schools personally control activities of lecturers and go over their material, noting especially examples and current information to be brought up. Students and lecturers are encouraged to raise their ideological level by taking evening courses in Marxism-Leninism, or by individual reading of Stalin's works. In practice, individual study is pursued in the Hungarian-language school only. The Rumanian-language school is not well enough planned at present.

In order that students remain in touch with the masses during their training period, each seminar group is placed under a primary party organization or popular organization.

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The regional party bureau has been principally interested in the teaching of Marxism-Leninism to the mass of party members. In the Cluj region, 2,817 persons are studying the history of the Communist Party of the USSR. A total of 1,077 are studying the biographies of Lenin and Stalin; 3,069 persons are taking 108 courses in enterprises; 2,415 are taking evening courses in 98 villages; 5,148 attend 217 current political discussion groups in cities; and 4,102 attend 155 current political discussion groups in villages.

Before the start of the 1950 - 1951 academic year, special attention was given to the training of propaganda personnel for the education of the masses. In Cluj, Dej, and Turda, seminars of from 5 to 15 days were organized. A total of 529 propagandists participated, 205 for the study of the history of the Communist Party of the USSR and of the biographies of Lenin and Stalin. Altogether, 125 propagandists entered evening courses and 199 entered current political discussion groups. Since the majority of the propagandists were new in the field, this special training raised their qualifications. However, the selection of people to attend these qualifications courses was not always wise. For example, Turda sent persons who were not able to remain in propaganda work. Others of the 903 active propagandists were not able to attend the courses and thus do not always succeed in delivering adequate lectures.

The regional bureau made a study of the conditions which resulted in poor party education. It observed that there was poor attendance and negligence on the part of primary party organizations in towns and villages. The propaganda and agitation section of the regional committee carried out studies in the field on the effectiveness of party teaching methods. Eight men were sent out to the country, to villages, towns, and enterprises. It was thus discovered that party instruction was especially poor in the rayons of Huedin, Gherla, Turda, Aiud, and Cluj. Consequently, the regional bureau ordered them to analyze their activities and suggest improvements by 25 February 1951. Chiefs of propaganda and agitation sections of the rayons were called to a 2-day meeting of the regional committee for instructions. Lectures were held on all phases of the activities of propaganda and agitation sections. Advisors were assigned to help rayons. Members of the regional bureau and delegates studied the specific problems of the respective areas. Advisors later met with rayon representatives in all rayons to adopt measures for improvement.

At the meeting of the Cluj rayon bureau, it was decided that the propaganda work was neglected by the propaganda and agitation section as well as by Ferenczi (fnu), first secretary of the bureau, and by Misiac (frn), rayon secretary. When the rayon bureau issued a decree that each activist hold a lecture, conference, or seminar on some form of party education, only Nemes (fnu) chief of the section for party, union, and UTM administrative organs performed his assigned duty. The Cluj rayon bureau propagandists were still failing to carry out decrees of the CC of the PMR in regard to education. Other duties prevent them from acting as lecturers and agitators. Thus, for example, Rozalia Urmosi, propagandist in the evening course in Savadisa, in Cluj Rayon, has nine other duties which take up her time. In view of such conditions, the regional party bureau ordered that all propagandists be relieved of other duties.

At a meeting of the rayon committee of Turda, it was determined that the report on conditions in the rayon was itself faulty, for it disregarded decrees of the CC of the PMR and of the regional committee. The report showed complete lack of concern for the quality of the propaganda and for the type of teaching in SMT (machine-tractor stations) and other agricultural units, such as the Capia Turzii SMT or the local collectives. Furthermore, the report was a negative one, presenting everything in an unfavorable light, whereas, in fact, many successes had been achieved.

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The bureau of the city committee of Cluj ordered a meeting of primary activists in order to analyze and improve their activities. Huedin Rayon likewise held two meetings. However, in view of the insufficient aid by the regional committee, as well as the negligence of Madru (fnu), chief of the propaganda and agitation section, the meetings were superficially prepared and accomplished nothing. At the third meeting, two men who had been sent out to discover true conditions gave their reports. The regional bureau was able to discover the low level of the area and give the necessary aid, especially to the propaganda and agitation section. At the same time, the regional bureau itself discovered a series of weaknesses in its work. One of these was the lack of adequate control.

In general, the analysis of party teaching made by each regional bureau resulted in favorable changes leading to the invigoration of propaganda work. For example, in the Sintorgan factory, the primary party organization, analyzing the mistakes in its evening courses, improved these courses and cut absenteeism from 50 percent to 20 percent. In the Tasia Cement Factory in Dej, members of the bureau of the primary party organization personally lead the work of education among students. In contrast, there is the Bela Brainer Factory in Cluj where attendance at courses and seminars was under 50 percent because of the superficial preparation.

Success was achieved in agriculture, for not a single unit in the area lacks an evening course or a current political discussion group. Ion Boer of the Criseni agricultural collective, Jibou Rayon, illustrated his propaganda talks with the specific problems facing the collective. Mauritiu Salamon of Catcau, Dej Rayon, prepared his work so conscientiously that 18 of 20 students participated regularly in seminars. Ion Crocu of Sannicoara wrote his ideas on the blackboard so that students could follow them more easily.

Party instruction developed favorably at collectives in Criseni, Cara, and the Bontida SMT in Gherla Rayon, where attendance rose from 60 percent to 80-90 percent. Primary party organizations, too, have progressed. The Catcau primary party organization, in an extraordinary session on 25 January 1951, decreed that everyone attend evening courses in a regular manner and that each member bring another person to every class. The local newspaper was to expose those who failed to comply and praise those who did.

However, in a number of places attendance was rather low. The average throughout the region is 66.6 percent at village evening courses and 60 percent in current political discussion groups in villages. But attendance is improving from day to day. At Calau, attendance at all forms of a party education was 35 to 40 percent. In view of new measures and decrees, it has risen to 98 percent. Average regional attendance for groups studying the history of the Communist Party of the USSR reached 77.3 percent. Average for evening courses in enterprises is 70 percent, for current political discussion groups in towns, 74 percent.

The intensification of party education has had a favorable effect on production. A number of persons who, in the past, did not fulfill party duties became more active. For example, Iosif Both of the Vehicle Transport Service of the CFR (Rumanian Railroad System), member of the primary party organization, was formerly unable to fulfill his duties. However, when he began to participate in evening courses he fulfilled his duties and showed a new attitude toward the party and toward production work, so that he was elected secretary of the primary party organization. Propagandist Ion Salanta, worker in the CFR shop in Cluj, introduced the Soviet method for the high-speed cutting of metals.

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In the Rosia Montana mining enterprise in Campeni Rayon, workers who attended evening courses and current political discussion groups achieved new norms through socialist competition. In the Tasia Cement Factory, where lectures are connected with current production efforts, workers sought to surpass the annual plan for clinker by 3 percent. Iosif Ianosi, Gavrilă Felecan, and others became Stakhanovites. Similarly, Alexandru Borzasi, Vasile Balas, and Micoara (fnu) of the CFR shop in Cluj became Stakhanovites as a result of party teaching.

Production in villages has also increased. For example, Vaida (fnu) of Lunca in Truda Rayon, a member of the agricultural collective, became a brigade leader and called for a higher level of courses as a result of his participation in current political discussion groups. Gheorghe Rusu, who took an evening course in Floresci in Cluj Rayon, was the first to fulfill his quota, setting an example of patriotic zeal for other working peasants. In Apahida in Cluj Rayon, the 18 collectivists who attended the current political discussion group are in the forefront of work. Before their participation, only five or six of them had presented themselves regularly for work at the collective.

The regional committee of Cluj, through the party bureau, held a series of meetings with propagandists for the improvement of their methods. As a result, when the seminar of an evening class discussed the subject "Work the conscientious duty of every working man of the RPR," propagandist Vagner (fnu) of the Janos Herbak enterprises gave concrete examples of the mistaken attitude of some people toward work. Losonczi (fnu) of the CFR shop in Cluj and Endi (fnu) gave lectures to fellow workers. After Endi had spoken on "What the regime of the people's democracy does for the working class of our country," he called on a number of people to speak on their experiences. In addition to political-ideological conferences, the party cabinet held lectures on methods for propagandists, entitled "How to connect theory with practical work," "How to obtain information from the material studied," "How to study a pamphlet," and "How to use a film."

Party education was further aided by the appointment of 15 propagandists, who were properly trained and sent out to villages. In addition, teams of five to ten men were sent out to visit farms. The central and the local press proved of great aid. Thus, in the party-life section of the newspaper Lupta Ardealului (Transylvanian Struggle), an article by Ana Lowenstien, chief of the propaganda section of the regional committee, appeared on 2 February 1951. It was entitled "For improved attendance at education classes in our region."

As a result of the new measures and of the meetings devoted to criticism and self-criticism, the regional committee of Cluj today knows in minute detail the status of every party teaching group throughout the entire region.

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